

REMARKS

Claims 1-28, 30-39, 42-45 and 47-48 are pending. By this response, claims 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11-13, 15, 22-28, 30-31, 33-39, 42-45, 47 and 48 are amended. Claims 29, 41 and 46 are canceled. Your consideration and allowance based on the above amendments and remarks are respectfully requested.

The Office Action alleges that the title is not descriptive. Applicants note that the title states "Slack Manager For Fiber Optic Cables And Method Of Managing Slack In The Same". Applicants respectfully submit that the title is descriptive of the invention and not generic or vague. If the Examiner considers the specific aspects of the title non-specific, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner point out the non-descriptive aspects of the title. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Specifically, the Office Action alleges that "the minimum bend radius" recited in claim 7 lacks antecedent basis. Applicants submit that the amendment to claim 7 corrects the antecedent basis. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 18-48 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Gatica et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,434,314); claims 13-14 and 16-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatenable over

Gatica and claims 6 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatenable over Gatica in view of Below et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,127,082). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Office Action alleges that Gatica teaches each and every feature of the claimed invention as recited in independent claims 1, 22, 33, 35, 38, 39 and 45. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Gatica provides a device which is used in the handling of filamentary materials, such as fiber optics, during manufacturing operation. The device is arranged so that the fiber optic organized in a compact manner so that precise placement of optical fiber devices, such as optical couplers or incorporation of optical features such as Bragg gratings can be implemented. In accomplishing this task, Gatica loads the optical fiber onto two spools (16, 18). The spools are mounted on a support board (12). One spool (16) is locked in position while the other spool (18) is rotatable. See columns 13, lines 5-65. The filament is wound around a guide (24) between the two spools. The rotatable spool (18) rotates and creates tension on the filament so that the operation such as forming Bragg gratings can be accomplished. See column 16, lines 15-30.

Several support boards may be stacked together as illustrated in Fig. 5. Also, other embodiments of Gatica illustrate various operations that occur while the optical fibers are mounted on the support board. This includes a stripping method to provide a transition section. See page 8-11.

It is evident from the teachings of Gatica that the systems of Gatica do not manage an optical cable connected on a circuit board in any manner. The allegations that the support board (12) of Gatica corresponds to the circuit board recited in claims 1, 22, 33, 35, 38, 39 and 45 is simply unfounded. A circuit board as described in the specification and known to those skilled in the art are different from the support board used in Gatica. Therefore, the support board does not anticipate the claimed circuit board.

Further, Gatica fails to teach a fiber optic cable received from one of the plurality adapters and a radius guide having a leading edge and a training edge in a range so that the fiber optic cable is positioned in substantially in a linear direction from one of the plurality adapters to one of the plurality of connectors positioned on the circuit board, as recited in claims 1, 33, and 35. Gatica's system does not provide adapters and connectors as optical fibers. The fiber cable in Gatica is loaded on the spools prior to mounting on the support board.

Furthermore, Gatica fails to teach or suggest raising the fiber optic cable off the circuit board using at least one elevated clip and at least one radius guide and regarding at least two points of support on said radius guide at a leading edge and a trailing edge of radius guide located above the circuit board surface, as recited in claims 22, 38 and 39.

The clamps 120 and 122 of Gatica which are alleged to correspond to the elevated clips of the present invention are utilized for holding opposite ends of an optical fiber when performing a stripping operation. Nowhere in Gatica does it

utilize elevated clips in conjunction with a radius guide having a leading and trailing edge which provides two separate support points. Further, Gatica does not teach or suggest a radius guide with two separate support points, as claimed in the present invention. In contrast, the optical fiber in Gatica is supported by spools which do not have a leading and trailing edge and do not have two separate support points.

Finally, Gatica fails to teach or suggest a step of twisting the fiber optic cable by a long axis of the fiber optic cable a predetermined end of the predetermined length of fiber optic cable between two points in which the fiber optic cable is connected to a circuit board, as recited in claims 45. Nowhere in Gatica does it teach or suggest using predetermined angles over a predetermined length of fiber optic cable about a long axis of the fiber optic cable between two support points. In Gatica, the fiber optic is held between spools by circular guides. The fiber optic cables are not twisted, as recited in claim 45.

Thus, as illustrated above, Gatica provides a very different system than claimed by Applicants. Thus, Gatica fails to teach each and every aspect of the claimed features as required under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Furthermore, Below teaches the coiling of fiber optic cable on a patch panel tray. The teachings of Below fail to make up the deficiencies of Gatica and specifically fail to teach the features as recited in independent claims 1, 22, 33, 35, 38, 39 and 45.

Thus, in view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the applied patent, either alone or in combination fails to teach the features of the claimed invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-28, 30-39, 42-45 and 47-48 are distinguishable over the recited patents. Favorable consideration and early allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings (Reg. No. 48,917) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

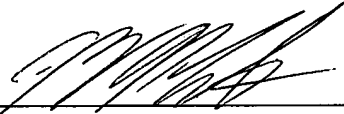
Appl. No. 10/002,472

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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